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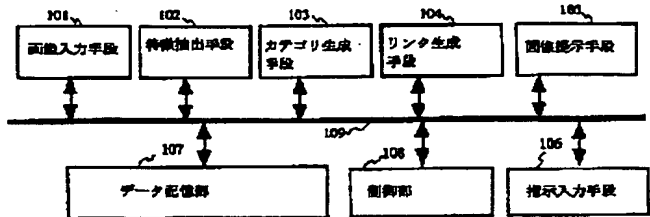|		
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APPLICANT : RICOH CO LTD;

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TITLE : BROWSING METHOD FOR IMAGE DATA BASE

ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To display an image with a small indication frequency by generating a data base for images in different categories and displaying sample images, and redisplaying a sample image in a category, which a selectively instructed image belongs to, and a similar image, which is linked to the selectively instructed image.

SOLUTION: A document image is obtained by an image input means 101. Features of this inputted image are extracted by a feature extracting means 102 and an image group is classified by categories by a category generating means 103. Then a link generating means 104 generates links. Thus, an image data base is generated. Then an image display means 105 selects one representative image each for the categories and shows it to a user. The user selects the image which is closest to a desired image by using an indication input means 106. An image which represents a subcategory of the category that the selected image belongs to and an image linked to the selected image are retrieved and shown again.

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